(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed/proposed to be fixed on the persons found guilty of indulging in financial and other irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) In the case of CSIR & DBT the CAG report for the year 2003 has brought out some cases of non-acheivements of objectives, unfruitful expenditure, delay in project monitoring & delays in technology transfer, non receipt of technology fee etc.

(c) and (d) The issues raised in the CAG report have been addressed by CSIR & DBT. In the case of CSIR the same were conveyed through the mechanism of the action taken notes. These in turn, are being monitored , by the CAG. DBT, in additioin, also highlighted the fact that in scientific departments 100% achievement of the objectives is difficult to predict at the project sanction stage.

Converting plastic into biodegradable material

2219. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists of NCL have developed a technique to convert the commonly used plastic into biodegradable material;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the research work is completed and this technique can be applied for industrial use; and

(d) whether Government have any plan to market this technique to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Scientists at NCL have carried out exploratory studies by which a conventional non-biodegradable plastic can be rendered biodegradable by attaching chemically a sugar moiety to polystyrene. Compared to polystyrene, the sugar modified polystyrene showed a greater ease for biodegradation.

(c) The studies are not complete. The generality of the method to other commonly used plastic (polyethylene) has not been explored. The mechanism of biodegradation is yet to be established. Its industrial applications and commercial viability is to be established.

(d) Once the commecial viability and utility of the technique is established, only then its marketability can be explored.

AHEAD

2220. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Health Environment and Allied Database (AHEAD) registered (No. S/26497 of 1994) with Registrar of Societies, Delhi was assoicated with Publication of Wealth Asia CDs and received foreign contribution through Council of Scientific and Industrial Research after 1993;

(b) if so, the details including the CD- Rom published, amount, source and date of foreign contribution received from 1994 onwards;

(c) whether copy right of CD-Rom published by AHEAD rest with AHEAD; and

(d) whether competent authority granted permission, after 1993 to Asian Health Environment and Allied Data base to accept foreign contribution through Council of Scientific and Industrial Research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a),(b) and (d) The Asian Health Environment and Allied Data Base (AHEAD), New Delhi set up in pursuance to an agreement between the CSIR and the IDRC, Canada received foreign contribution from the latter amounting to Rs. 58,12,708 between 1995-1997. The direct receipt of foreign contribution by AHEAD was considered to be a technical violation of the provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976. This contravention has since been condoned by the Government.